

Mobile

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. “The underlying assumption of the vision is the integration of leading edge technology with personal attention to achieve the most productive learning environment available in higher education. The logical next step in this institutional vision is the creation of a wireless and mobile computing environment whereby each faculty member and student can learn anywhere, anytime.”

Hammond said that “mobile computing” was the preferred terminology for the initiative at FHSU, which would include some versions of portable computing technology that go beyond laptops.

The initiative started this semester and will be carried

ried out over three years.

For this year, the plan is to have a wireless network that will be accessible any place on campus. Other first-year steps include the creation of pilot programs and the process of soliciting and testing specific hardware and software from vendors.

Students will have the option of either purchasing an FHSU-recommended computer or adhering to a minimum set of hardware requirements for students who already own a computer.

By early spring 2006, a vendor or vendors will be selected, and the decisions regarding student ownership and fees will be announced.

In the second year, starting in fall 2006, the university will provide laptops for faculty members who request

them and provide training for effective use of the technology. Also, university technicians will be trained to be both Mac-certified and PC-certified so that some repairs can be completed on campus.

In the third year, starting in fall 2007, all incoming and currently enrolled students will be required to possess one of two types of university-specified mobile computing hardware (Mac or PC). Students who own non-specified models will not be eligible for software or maintenance from the university.

Hammond added that although the university has mapped out a clear plan for converting to wireless mobile computing, input from students, faculty and staff would allow refinements to be made as the plan moves forward.

Wireless

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

digital pictures for students to analyze visual data collected in the field. Digital pictures can be downloaded for easy labeling of rock formations while still allowing inspection of the rock first hand.

Students, though, are the ones who are most affected by this transition.

Tanna Charbonneau, a nursing major who already owns a laptop and uses it at school, thinks the transition to mobile computing is a good idea.

“Computers are becoming a part of everyday life and people should accept that,” Charbonneau said. She finds mobile computing to be a benefit because the majority of instructors on campus already post

most class information and homework on Blackboard. Now she can access those resources at home or at school—anyplace, anytime. With her computer by her side, Charbonneau saves time by not having to search for a computer to do work on.

Brian Gilligan, however, has a different outlook. As a graphics major, one would think that he would be interested in being able to take his work with him. Gilligan, though, says that the system requirements to run the graphics software he uses on a day-to-day basis will not run on the lower-end laptops he can afford.

For now, students not convinced of the cost-effectiveness or benefits of wireless computing can sit on the sidelines. However, the laptops will become required of all current and incoming students for the fall semester 2007.

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Sept. 8, 2005; Volume 1, Issue 1
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Going Wireless

Campus expands wireless network

Martin Brungardt
Staff Writer

Wireless internet access has spread quickly across campus following FHSU’s official decision to adopt mobile computing as a requirement.

Tomanek, Stroup, Albertson, Malloy and Cunningham halls, as well as Forsyth Library, now all have full wireless internet coverage, allowing students and faculty to connect to the campus network from any spot inside those buildings. Several other buildings also have partial wireless coverage.

“Work is progressing on the entire campus with a schedule of 10 working days for each hall to be entirely wireless,” said David Schmidt, director of the Computer and Telecommunication Center.

Several instructors have been issued Toshiba tablet

computers as part of the first stage of the three-year plan to phase in mobile computing on campus.

The focus of this year’s advancement in the program is engaging students – that is, seeing how to best use laptop computers as to provide the greatest benefit to the students in the classroom, during lab experiments and for homework purposes, according to Schmidt.

Even during this early phase of the program, some of the teachers issued Toshiba tablet computers have come up with new and innovative ways to use this technology in the classroom.

Ken Neuhauser of the Geosciences Department was issued a Toshiba tablet computer and now uses

SEE 'WIRELESS' ON PAGE 8

FHSU considers wind farm

Bonnie LeRoy
Assistant Editor

In light of rising energy prices, the possibility of building a wind farm to help produce electricity to power FHSU seems especially appropriate.

At this point, the wind farm is just an idea, not a sure thing, said Kent Steward, FHSU director of

university relations. Much more information would have to be collected before the university could decide to take on the project, including a way to finance the building of the farm.

“Dr. Hammond (FHSU President) is very adept

SEE 'WIND' ON PAGE 4



No Lifeguard on Duty



BONNIE LEROY/THE EDGE

FHSU students and football supporters eat and drink in the back of their truck as part of the TailGreat festivities on August 27. The event is held before the first home football game. FHSU lost the game to Emporia 13-52.

▼ FHSU Press Release - Hurricane Katrina

School offers aid to victims

The campus of Fort Hays State University has been abuzz for the past several days with inquiries about how to extend assistance to people in the areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama that were ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, but those efforts are on hold pending a response to a major offer of assistance by the university.

Edward H. Hammond, FHSU president, in the immediate aftermath of the storm, offered early this week to house an

entire academic program from a university in the affected area. “We are in a unique circumstance right now that allows us an opportunity we wouldn’t ordinarily have,” he said. “The last of the four units of our new Stadium Place apartment complex is nearing completion, and we could reopen

SEE 'KATRINA' ON PAGE 3



Boot up the e-textbooks



Zach
Becker
Editor

\$101.40 for one book!?

I about fainted. Luckily, the kindly man working the bookstore showroom informed me that was the used price. All the used books were gone.

\$147.50 That's the price I ended up paying for one lovely, huggable, hope-fully-encyclopedic work-of-art-like Organizational Behavior textbook. Now, I'm not saying anything bad against the Organizational Behavior book or the good folks McShane and Von Glinow who wrote it.

What I am saying is that the price of textbooks is getting out of control. I'm not going to bore you with the overdone topic of who is at fault for the outrageous prices (The author? The publisher? The retailer? I've never heard a definitive answer).

In lieu of playing the blame game, I want to propose an alternative.

FHSU is already going wireless with mobile computing.

Let's go bookless, too, and usher in the era of the online textbook (or e-textbook).

Those \$500 laptop computers students have to buy won't seem nearly so expensive when we don't have to pay buku bucks for textbooks every semester.

FHSU could pioneer the e-textbook by having each department create text tailored for its own curriculum and publish it online on Blackboard.

FHSU could partner with other institutions of higher learning and jointly develop these e-texts, tapping some of the brightest minds each school has to

offer to create the best product possible.

What would this mean to the student?

Without having to go through the expensive printing process (and the publisher's profit margin), e-textbooks could be had at a fraction of the cost. By eliminating the middle man of the publisher, more of that money can go straight to the talented people who write the text.

On top of that, students are given a text that can be easily updated with the latest facts and theories not just year to year, but anytime. Presentation of information can also take on a new dynamic, encompassing video, soundbites and other multimedia applications for a way of learning that is just not possible on the printed page.

Not surprisingly, I'm not the first person to think of this idea. A simple Google search for electronic textbooks yielded one such site called Etext.net.

"Pay for information, not paper and binding!" reads the top of their site. My thoughts exactly.

Now let's make it happen.

EDITORIAL

▼ on the edge

The Edge Beta Release a success

We would like to take a minute to thank everyone for making the Beta Release of *The Edge* a success.

For those who don't know, this newspaper debuted at the end of last semester with a test issue we called our Beta Release.

When we distributed it on campus, we didn't know what kind of response to expect.

We had hoped students would be open to a new, independent student publication, but there was no way to know for sure until the first issue made its way out there and people got a chance to thumb through the pages.

We were pleasantly surprised by the very positive response we received, both in person and via email.

With the positive feedback from our first issue, we decided that there was a niche for our product and continued on with plans to bring back *The Edge* for the fall.

The momentum that first issue created has helped us draw enough advertising revenue to make *The Edge* financially viable for the time being.

Anyway, we just wanted to take a minute to thank our advertisers and all our supporters, for without you *The Edge* would not exist.

-The Editorial Board

the edge

Mission: *The Edge* newspaper staff strives to be a voice of integrity on the campus of Fort Hays State University. *The Edge* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach every article with honesty, integrity, fairness, accuracy and public service in mind.

Disclaimer: *The Edge* is a publication completely independent of Fort Hays State University. Therefore, the views expressed herein reflect only the opinions of Edge staff members and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of any person affiliated with the university.

Letters to the editor must be submitted by e-mail to edgenewspaper@gmail.com at least one week prior to publication date. Letters must include name, address, class or title and telephone number for verification purposes. *The Edge* reserves the right to edit letters for length, style and legality and publication is not guaranteed.

Staff: Zach Becker, editor; Bonnie LeRoy, assistant editor; Jennifer Copp, advertising manager; Jennifer Schartz, consultant; Martin Brungardt, Damien Leeson and Meghan Tucker, staffers.



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- Madrigal Dinner
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- Newspapers
- Campus/Pay Phones
- Campus & Hays Brochures
- Bulletin Boards
- Student Paycheck Distribution
- Student Organization Area
- Lost and Found
- Tiger Tots Payments
- Grab 'N' Go
- Pool Tables
- Study Lounges

www.fhsu.edu/union

▼ Art Department

Exhibits announced for fall

Fort Hays State University's Art Department plans an eventful year with several exhibitions for the fall 2005 and spring 2006 semesters.

Unless otherwise noted, all exhibitions will be in the Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art in Rarick Hall on the FHSU campus, which is open on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. With the exception of the Faculty Exhibition, all shows will include an opening reception from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the first day of the exhibits.

To kick off the series, the art faculty will hold its annual show on Oct. 6, displaying its own collection of artwork. The work will be on display from Sept. 30 to Oct. 28.

Visiting artist Robert Schweiger will follow the faculty exhibition with his printmaking display from Nov. 4 to Dec. 9.

Other shows include the Ben Schlitter MFA Thesis Exhibition from Jan. 13 - Feb. 10; the BFA Graphic Design Exhibit from Feb. 17 to Feb. 24; the Interior Design ASID Exhibition from March 3 to March 17; the Annual Student Honors Exhibition from April 7 to April 21; and the Annual High School Art Exhibit on April 19. The high school exhibit, held at Gross Memorial Coliseum, is a one-day-only event and will not have an opening reception.

Gordon Sherman, associate professor of art, will wrap up the series on April 28 with the Gordon Sherman Sabbatical Exhibition.

Refreshments are provided at all opening receptions. Admission to the exhibitions is free of charge and casual attire is acceptable.

▼ Encore Series

Fall schedule announced

The Fort Hays State University Encore Series for 2005-2006 will feature two Broadway musicals, a symphony and other world-class music and dance. All performances are in the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center.

The season will begin Oct. 18 with "Mame," the story of the indestructible, irrepressible Auntie Mame. "Mame" has been described as one of the liveliest, happiest musicals of Broadway's golden age. The curtain will go up at 8 p.m.

Next up, at 8 p.m. Nov. 9, is River North Chicago Dance Company, one of the country's

most dynamic jazz/contemporary dance companies. River North tours extensively and is appealing to watching dance for the first as well as for seasoned dance fans.

The Nebraska Theatre Caravan will bring its national touring production of "A Christmas Carol" to the Encore Series on Nov. 20. This holiday classic by Charles Dickens reveals the true spirit of the Christmas holiday. The performance begins at 7 p.m. Following the production, cast members will conduct a question-and-answer session with audience members.

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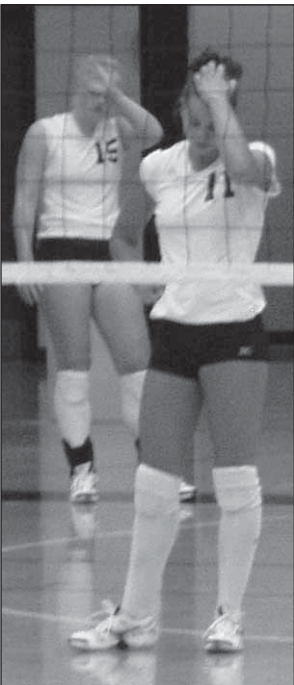
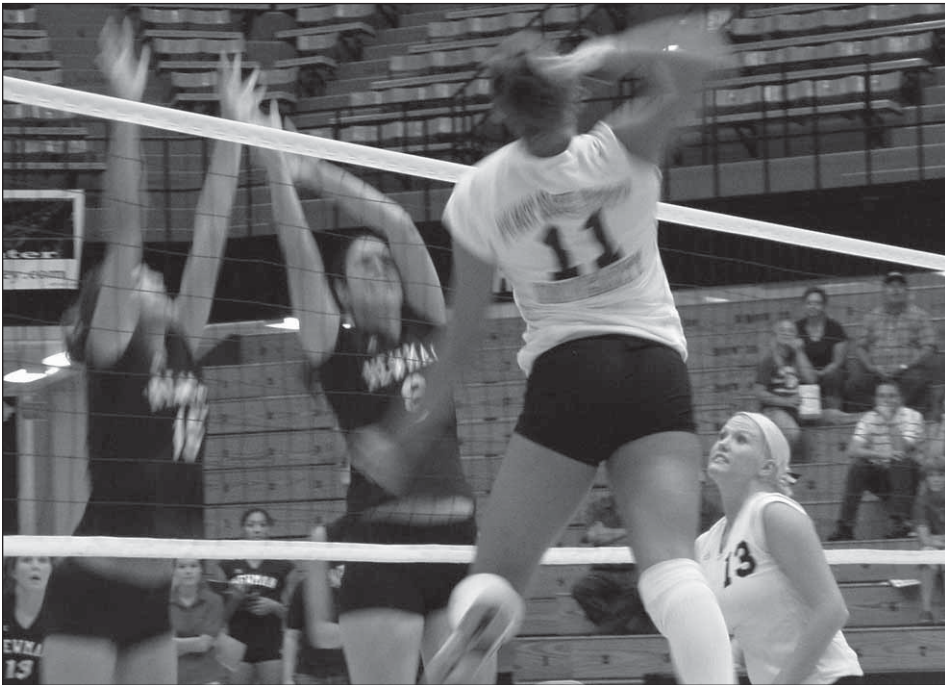
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On the Sidelines

Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Result
Aug. 31	Newman	Hays	W 3-0
Sept. 2	Ramada Inn Invitational	St. Joseph, MO	
	vs. Central Oklahoma		W 3-0
	vs. Missouri Western		L 2-3
Sept. 3	Ramada Inn Invitational	St. Joseph, MO	
	vs. Northwest Missouri State		L 1-3
	vs. Pittsburg State		L 1-3
Sept. 6	Emporia State University	Emporia, KS	L 2-3
Upcoming Games			
Sept. 9	Colorado Christian	Hays	7 p.m.
Sept. 10	Metro State	Hays	7 p.m.
Sept. 16	Colorado School of Mines	Golden, CO	7 p.m.

source: www.tigersportszone.com



ZACH BECKER/THE EDGE

Above left; Junior Kellyn Thaut spikes the ball against Newman as Senior Katie Carnes watches during the Tiger's home opener August 31 at Gross Memorial Coliseum. Top right; Thaut, right, shows disgust after a play against Newman as Sophomore Neeley Remmers shows equal frustration from the sideline. The frustration wouldn't last long, though, as FHSU went on to win 3-0.

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Katrina

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the closed wing of Weist Hall. That means we could accommodate an entire academic unit of up to 20 faculty and staff and approximately 300 to 400 students.”

Hammond made the offer to one of the universities in New Orleans early in the week, and he also extended the offer generally through the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which is coordinating offers of assistance from institutions of higher education throughout the nation.

The president urged faculty, staff and students at FHSU to make donations through other agencies pending a decision on his offer to bring an entire academic unit intact to the Hays campus. “If one of the universities accepts our offer, it will

have ramifications for the entire community, including K-12 education,” he said. “We would house faculty and staff, and their families, at Stadium Place, and we would house students in Weist Hall. We would work with FEMA to bring the displaced families and students to Hays. Many if not most would arrive with little or no clothing, so I am confident that our campus would rally at that time with donations to meet their needs.”

He said he expected a decision within a few days. It appears now that the universities along the Gulf Coast will be closed for at least the rest of the semester and possibly for the remainder of the academic year.

“This approach of taking an academic unit would help not only students but also the faculty and staff who are uncertain about their immediate futures,” Hammond said.

The university has also taken

other steps to help with the disaster. FHSU’s Virtual College has identified 88 students in the three affected states, although it is not clear how many are in the areas hit by the storm. The Virtual College has sent e-mail messages to all those students offering to help them in any way possible, from assisting them in dropping classes to making arrangements for incompletes or postponing assignments.

“A few of the students have told us they lost everything,” said Dennis King, director of the Virtual College and Learning Technology. “We’ll work with them any way we can. Some of them said they were able to keep their books and plan to continue with their classes. They are just looking for something to be normal in their lives.”

Also, the FHSU Alumni Association has offered to replace diplomas free of charge for alumni in the affected areas who have

CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP
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Upcoming Events:

LEADOFF - September 9th & 10th, Camp Aldridge. Student leader development retreat.

Times Talk - September 7th, 12:30 pm. Trails Room, Memorial Union. “Civic Engagement: Poodle Skirts or Little Black Dresses?” Jill Stafford & Christie Brungardt.

Times Talk - September 16th, 12:30 pm. Stouffer Lounge, Memorial Union. “Constitutional Law.” Elisa Weselis’ Constitutional Law Class.

Constitution Day - September 16th, FHSU Campus.

Spotlight:

Campus-Community Service Fair - September 8th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Memorial Union Ballroom. Come learn about service-learning and volunteerism opportunities.

Hurricane Victims Relief Campaign - Now until September 16th. Donation areas are set up in the Memorial Union, Forsyth Library and the Residential Halls.

For more information, contact the Center for Civic Leadership at 628-5592.

Upcoming FHSU Activities

Today
Campus Community Service Fair; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Memorial Union, Ballroom
Interviewing Workshop; 3 - 4 p.m., Memorial Union, Black & Gold Room
Resume & Cover Letter Workshops; 7 - 8 p.m., Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

Friday
FHSU Cross Country @ Trojan Invitational (JV); 6 - 9 p.m., Colby, KS
FHSU Volleyball vs. Colorado Christian; 7 - 10 p.m., Gross Memorial Coliseum

Saturday
FHSU Volleyball vs. Metro State; 7 - 10, Gross Memorial Coliseum

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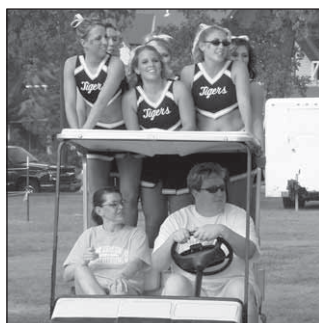
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At top, the FHSU Marching Band and dancers perform during halftime of the football game against Emporia August 27.

On bottom right, the FHSU cheerleaders drive around on a golf cart during Tail-Great 2005.

At bottom left, students sign in and fill out forms at McMIndes Hall during move-in day.

PHOTOS BY JOHN JORGENSEN, BONNIE LEROY AND ZACH BECKER



Wind

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at raising money when it's for good things for the university," Stewart said.

He added that even if the money were available, though, there would be several other things to consider before going ahead with the project.

If the university does decide to build a wind farm, Stewart said it would most likely be placed on some college owned land just outside the Hays city limits.

Aside from building a wind farm, there are several other ways that the college could invest in wind energy without the capital cost of building the wind turbines.

Those options include a partnership with an existing wind energy company or purchase of wind energy already being transmitted over the energy grid.

Wind farms have been gaining popularity as an alternative energy source in recent years.

"There are lots of people who think it would be healthy for our country to decrease our dependence on foreign oil," Stewart said.

Along with that aspect and the fact that a wind farm could, over time, lower the university's energy costs, Stewart said the wind farm could also be used as an educational tool for FHSU students in departments like physics and technical studies.

Trip to China changes life

Damien Leeson
Staff Writer

He left America for the unknown, abandoning comfort and safety, to pursue something more. Entering into a culture completely foreign to him, he didn't realize that an adventure was just one step ahead of him.

Since the year 2000 Fort Hays State University has been in partnership with SIAS International University. SIAS is located in Xinzheng City in the Henan Province of China. A number of the International students at FHSU come from SIAS to study. The school in China offers students a Bachelor's degree in General Studies, given through FHSU, on top of a degree from SIAS University.

However, not known to many, is that SIAS University also offers opportunities to all students at Fort Hays State University.

One such option is a program where

There aren't a lot of foreigners, especially those who are tall and blond. A number of (Chinese people) openly stare.

students from the united states travel overseas to teach oral English for freshman English majors. This program has taken a number of students from the comfort of Western Kansas and led them to the extreme culture shock of the East.

One such student was Keith Conner, now alumni, who took his first trip to China in 2002 through a group called Focus International.

"Our purpose in going," Conner said, "was to learn about the Chinese language and culture."

Albeit the first trip was not part of Fort Hays State University, he had long known about the partnership and it was this first trip that opened his eyes to wanting more.

The following year, after graduating and talking with contacts on the China and American side, he decided to return, only this time for an entire year and instead of learning, teaching.

"The first time I went it was for only seven weeks, which isn't a lot of time to get to know the people," Keith reflected. "So in going back, that was one of my main goals; to get to know the students."

Which he, of course, had ample time to do. The experience led him to a second year; only this time with his girlfriend at the time and now wife, Christina Hawkinson, also an FHSU alumni.

"As far as culture shock," Keith recounts, "I would say the big-

gest was for my wife."

It took her quite awhile to grow accustomed to all the staring and gawking.

"There aren't a lot of foreigners, especially those who are tall and blond. A number of them very openly stare. They certainly don't try and hide it."

For Christina, this was one of the biggest challenges to overcome in her journey, but she did and shocked her husband by saying, "You know what I want to do next year . . . go back to SIAS."

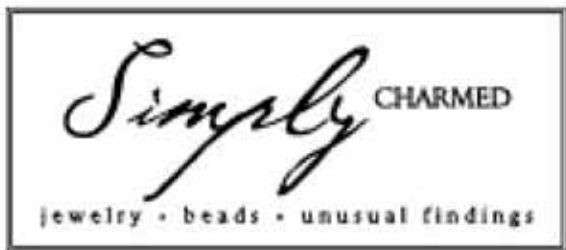
This, of course, came after Keith wondered whether or not his wife was going to have a breakdown.

The love of teaching and meeting a people far removed from our own has led two individuals with a love of life and each other down a road of adventure and excitement in a foreign land.

For more information about SIAS University or other international exchange programs, visit: <http://cn.sias.edu.cn/>.



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